

lead in the air has decreased 89 percent, but while lead gas for automobiles has been banned since 1995, the piston-engine aircraft industry and airports that supply their fuel continue to use leaded aircraft fuel. Without a federal ban, they will continue to do so and put our communities and children at risk.

Lead particles from airplane exhaust can fall widely during flight and there may be high concentrations of lead near airports. It is estimated that 16 million people live and three million children go to school within a half-mile of airports that sell leaded aircraft fuel called avgas. The health effects of lead in children include behavioral and learning problems, lower IQ, hyperactivity, slowed growth, hearing problems, and anemia. Lead exposure can cause premature births and spontaneous abortions in pregnant women, and adults can suffer from increased blood pressure, decreased kidney function, and reproductive problems.

Seventy-five percent of piston-engined aircraft already operate safely with fuel that does not use lead. However, small airports continue to only sell leaded avgas for these piston-engine aircraft. But small airports will have to comply if the federal government bans the use of leaded fuel. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which implements the Clean Air Act, announced plans in 2010 to phase out leaded aviation fuel, but in the intervening six years we still have not seen a proposed rule. The FAA has created a task force of government and aviation industry stakeholders to study alternative fuels for piston-engine aircraft that would not use lead.

With so much evidence of the harmful impacts of lead exposure, we can no longer put our communities at risk. My bill would give enough time for a full phase-out of lead in aircraft fuel—five years—by directing the FAA Administrator, in consultation with the EPA Administrator, to issue regulations prohibiting the

use of leaded fuel in aircraft in U.S. airspace beginning January 1, 2023.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING KEBA LAIRD

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable young lady, Mrs. Keba Laird of Clinton, MS.

Mrs. Keba Laird is a registered and licensed dietitian nutritionist, wellness coach, and aerobics instructor with 17 years of experience in health and wellness promotion. She has a diverse educational background with practitioner experience in a variety of settings to include clinical and school nutrition, worksite wellness, and community health. Now in her current role as Child Nutrition Supervisor II for Clinton Public School District, Mrs. Laird finds this job most rewarding as she helps create a healthy school environment and workplace for both students and staff.

After earning her Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics degree from the University of Southern Mississippi, Mrs. Laird earned a Master of Business Administration degree from William Carey University to further expand her business and management skills. Mrs. Laird is an American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) Certified Exercise Physiologist, and a certified health and wellness coach through Wellcoaches. She received a Certificate of Training in Adult Weight Management through the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

One of Mrs. Laird's most recent accomplishments is having earned the credential, School Nutrition Specialist (SNS), the highest creden-

tial in the School Nutrition profession in July 2017. Mrs. Laird has met the academic and experience requirements as well as demonstrated competency through successfully passing a national standardized exam for the school nutrition profession. Mrs. Laird is one of over 1,300 professionals who have earned this designation. This credential is offered through the School Nutrition Association (SNA), a non-profit organization of over 55,000 members that encourages the highest standards in school nutrition programs and it recognizes those who have obtained a high level of professional achievement.

Mrs. Laird has a successful record in nutrition/fitness counseling and coordinating weight management programs for adults and children that improve awareness and inspire behavior change. She has been featured on local television news stations presenting on such topics as: disease prevention, healthy lifestyle goal planning, stress management, and she has implemented worksite wellness programs for many corporate businesses across Mississippi.

Mrs. Laird is a member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, School Nutrition Services Dietetic Practice Group, American College of Sports Medicine, and Mississippi School Nutrition Association (MSNA). She has served as president and secretary of the Central District Dietetic Association, and chair of physical fitness for the Greater Jackson Shrinkdown Fit Kidz Program. She currently chairs the MSNA Publicity Committee, and will serve as Secretary for the 2017–2018 term. Mrs. Laird is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., where she currently serves as the Chaplain for the Clinton (MS) Alumnae Chapter, located in Clinton, MS.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Keba Laird for her dedication to serving throughout her community and throughout organizations around Mississippi.